

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03342 061409Z

44

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

----- 006402

R 061048Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5246

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3342

E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER FEATURE

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

1. KHMER CIVIL ENGINEERS LAST WEEK BEGAN WORK ON A SPECIAL "SHORT-TAKE-OFF-AND-LANDING" (STOL) AIRSTRIP AT PHNOM PENH'S POCHENTONG AIRFIELD. THE NEW FACILITY WILL ACCOMMODATE KHMER AIR FORCE GU-SHIPS AND OBSERVATION PLANES. IT WILL ALSO REDUCE GROUND CONGESTION, ENHANCE FLYING SAFETY, AND EXPEDITE AIRCRAFT LANDINGS AND TAKE-OFFS AT POCHENTONG.

2. THE STOL FACILITY IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF AIRFIELD AND SEAPORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED SINCE NOVEMBER 1971. KHMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONSIDER THAT THE NEW FACILITIES WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE REPUBLIC'S FUTURE PEACETIME ECONOMY AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK WHILE CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE PRESENT WARTIME DEFENSE EFFORT.

3. MANY OF THE PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED TO UPGRADE AND AUGMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03342 061409Z

EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR AIRFIELDS. IN ADDITION

TO THE STOL FACILITY NOW UNDERWAY, A NEW MILITARY AIRCRAFT TAXIWAY IS BEING CONSTRUCTED AT POCHENTON G AS WELL AS NEW PARKING APRONS FOR BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. AN EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF FENCING AND LIGHTING HAS ALSO BEEN INSTALLED TO ENHANCE THE AIRFIELD'S SECURITY AGAINST POSSIBLE COMMUNISST SAPPER ATTACKS.

4. AT BATTAMBANG, THE MAIN RUNWAY IS BEING EXTENDED IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE TAKE-OFF AND LANDING OF MORE HEAVILY-LOADED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. A NEW TAXIWAY AND PARKING APRON ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND THE MAIN RUNWAY IS BEING RESURFACED. SIMILAR WORK IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AT REAM AIRFIELD NEAR KOMPONG SOM.

5. ANOTHER INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IS THE UP-GRADING OF NAVAL AND CIVILIAN PORT FACILITIES. A 210 METER-LONG REINFORCED CONCRETE PIER IS NEARING COMPLETION AT THE REAM NAVAL BASE AS WELL AS A NEW 600 KILOWATT POWER PLANT. IMPROVEMENTS TO A PIER AT PHNOM PENH WHICH HANDLES SPECIAL CARGO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. AT THE MAIN PHNOM PENH CIVIL PORT, NEW LIGHTING AND MODERN CARGO-HANDLING EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO FACILITATE THE RAPID 24-HOUR-A-DAY HANDLING OF MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL CARGO.

6. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CONSTRUCTON PROGRAM TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO, WORK IN THE VALUE OF APPROXIMATELY THRE BILLION RIELS (\$5.6 MILLION) HAS BEEN COMPLETED OR IS STILL UNDERWAY. FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE KHMER GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

7. WAGES, SALARIES AND FUNDS PAID OUT FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES AND RAW MATERIALS PURCHASED IN THE REPUBLIC HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATION'S ECONOMY. APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF THE PROJECT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN WON BY PRIVATE KHMER CONTRACTORS IN COMPETITIVE BIDDING. ALL OF THE WORK FORCE IS KHMER, AND OVER 75 PERCENT OF THE SUPERVISORY ENGINEERING STAFF ARE GRADUATE KHMER ENGINEERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM03342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740364/aaaachin.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2002 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER SITUATIONER FEATURE USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM
TAGS: PINS, ETRD, CB
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005